

## The Brethren Evangelist

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J. W. BEER,  
E. L. YODER,  
E. MASON,  
J. D. McFADEN, } Editorial Writers.

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## Baptism a Condition of Salvation.

'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,' Mark xvi. 16.

It is astonishing that men will say that baptism is not a condition of salvation. The words of the Savior were recorded by his own chosen disciples who knew all things about his life, and then were endowed with power from on high to do the writing. His words were recorded in the most perfect language, and in the most perfect dialect of the most perfect language that the tongue of man ever spoke. And still men insist that He did not mean what he said, when condemnation was spoken with the promises of blessings in the same breath.

Men may live like grasshoppers and pass away like fog, and yet they trust in one another's promises based upon nothing, and nibble away the punishments for disobedience declared by the royal Majesty of the heavens, after he had burst the bars of death, and was exalted above every other creature in heaven and earth—even next to the very God.

'He that believeth not shall be damned.' What are men to believe? They are to believe the Gospel. What is the Gospel? To repent of your sins and be baptized, and live godly and receive a crown. It is as much believing the Gospel to be baptized as it is to repent. The same stress are placed upon both. A sinner who does not repent, but is baptized and lives right thereafter has as good prospects for eternal life as the man who repents and lives right and is not baptized. There is no promise to either. The promise is to the one who believes and is baptized. This Christ has declared as the law of his kingdom. Moreover he has declared that he will add to any man who adds thereto, the plagues that are written in the Revelations. And any man, who takes away therefrom, shall have his part taken out of the book of life. The same Jesus said both. Men who say that it is not necessary to be baptized are taking away from the 14 verse of the 22 chapter of Revelations.

If baptism is not a condition of salvation there is no condition of salvation. The Gospel is to be preached. The Gospel is, that men should repent and be baptized, accepting Jesus as their Savior, and thereafter living godly. This is the practical

frame-work of the whole plan of salvation; and men have not the promise of being saved without the baptism.

### Religion Saves the Soul.

In time past the will of God was revealed to men by the tongues of holy men. In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, in whom the fulness of the God-head dwells. He came from the excellent glory to the earth, not to praise men, exalt them in worldly ways, but to convince them of sin and judgment to come. The system he introduced to the attention of the people is now called Religion. It is the religion of Jehovah, by Jesus Christ.

This religion is not designed to add to any man's earthly possessions, to seat him in any high place. It is not designed as a help toward the gratification of mortal ambition. It is not designed to flatter men, nor stuff the vain and silly imaginations of fools and the semi-insane. It is not designed as a wieldy chariot to carry any man into power and fame.

Religion saves the soul. O, that divine power would fill those words with convicting power that they might sink into the hearts of thousands who sit together in heavenly places, and never feel the quickenings of an endless life. Dumb statues—like dumb animals that know no hereafter and expect to live always. To them religion seems to be a mere necessary part of life, and not seed to sow that will bloom in eternity and yield a harvest of a thousand fold in exaltation, glory, unspeakable happiness and life immortal. There is no enthusiasm revolving in such hearts; no lifting up of the voice exultantly:

'O the transporting, rapturous scene,  
That rises to my sight,  
Sweet fields arrayed in living green,  
And rivers of delight.'

The throng of frequenters of the sanctuary of the Lord want their reward now. The idea of waiting until the steward shall return is too long. Yea, many want rewards that they never have merited. But the soul, the poor soul, in eternity, is forgotten. It is the soul that must live again, and it will live in glory or die the second death—the death in the lake of fire—and the smoke of torment will ascend forever and forever.

Religion will save your soul, if you have religion. You can get it by asking Jesus. He is knocking at the door. If you will open it he will come in. He says, 'Thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.'

May every mind, sincerely desiring a rest for the soul in eternity, renounce the vanity and foolish things of life and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

### France.

France is one of the most ungodly nations on earth, with the intelligence and opportunities she possesses. The nation is on the eve of another revolution. Carlyle once wrote that his country had so many inhabitants, mostly fools. Their foolery consists in their sins. They sin willfully and knowingly, and God will send a new curse upon them soon. In 1870, Catholicism directed her affairs, and Germany gave her a crushing defeat at battle. Now infidelity is

swaying a high hand, and another baptism of blood and sorrow is coming upon her.

How different is England. She has steadfastly held aloft the religion of Jesus Christ, and God has abundantly blessed her. On her dominions the sun never sets. Rome in all her glory and power was weak and small compared with Great Britain to day. All this God has granted because she has been faithful in her devotion to the teachings of the Bible.

### Prohibition in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania will soon engage in a mighty struggle to establish prohibition within her borders. There are hopes of a successful canvass by prohibitionists. On the 19th of this month a convention of all the temperance and Prohibition organizations of the State was held at Harrisburg, and the forces are now being marshaled for the contest. The legislature that submitted the amendment have pledged the saloon interests that it shall not pass, but their pledges are not the will of the people. Senator Quay, the boss politician of the state has been taken to task for allowing submission, and was told that they should not have tacked the temperance question. His reply was that they could not help it, as it tacked them.

Temperance sentiment has concentrated along the line of Prohibition at a wonderful rate during the last year, and the impudence of the liquor traffic in the late election is helping people to get on the right side of the subject. Prohibition is marching on at a wonderful rate, for a reform that cuts a swath as wide as it does. The great benefits therefrom accruing in Kansas, Iowa, Maine and other places where it is partially enforced, are aiding the forward march of the cause.

All that is possible for us to do in Pennsylvania, is to say brethren and sisters give it your hearty support. The cause is God's, and by it he will save our grand country from ruin, and preserve to us our institutions, privileges, liberties and homes. God has always cursed and destroyed rum-soaked nations, and will destroy us if we continue to allow the expense of \$850,000,000 annually to enslave women, debauch children, ruin homes, debauch men and to banish the religion of Jesus Christ from the hearts of men.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

We understand that Bro. Lehman is going to regard the Lord as good as one of his children, in a practical way. May God give him grace to live out the good resolution. It would be interesting to know also who is to receive his portion first, the children or the Lord. We are inclined to judge that the Lord should be esteemed worthy. The rule of the scripture is to lay by on the first day of the week as the Lord has prospered you.

We would remind the church everywhere that we keep informed about the available preachers of the Brotherhood, and will give addresses on application by any church of the Brotherhood. If churches would write us when a pastor is wanted, it would be an additional safeguard against imposition upon them by men who are not true to their high calling. Ministers with pure characters and clean records are invited to write us when they want a position. We may be able to render valuable assistance.

The Pope thinks the modern Protestant Bible Societies are moral pests. They are great pests to him, for where Bibles are scattered popery dies.

It seems that those who were once working members in our church can not remain out of it. Church feuds do occasionally arise, and will so long as sin is allowed to reign in our members and individuals become cold, but the sure foundation upon which our teaching rests, after the storm has blown over, is the best and most lovely still, and he who has gone away returns again. Men may do deeds which are not right within our ranks, but the foundation abideth still, and as 'truth crushed will rise again,' so the gospel principle, although trodden down, will assert itself again.

A writer has these excellent things to say about speaking:

Last night I heard a sermon from my friend Dr. S—. The first half was strong in thought, earnest in delivery, easily securing and keeping the attention of the audience. In the third quarter, the intellectual grip of the speaker was lessened, and the audience became somewhat restless. In the fourth quarter the emotional power waned, and during the concluding paragraphs, I noticed that he was looking for a good stopping-place. I am aware that a great many speakers are frequently bent upon the same voyage of discovery. They find it difficult to land. It is easy to distinguish in some speeches the exact sentence where the speaker has finished what he has to say, and is hunting around for a place to end. What a sad and good advice to offer to such elocutionary wanderers. It is with speech as with fishing or sailing. It is more difficult to land the trout than to hook him, more difficult to bring the ship into port than to sail her across the ocean. Some one has told me a story which illustrates this difficulty. I am not sure of its truthfulness; but true or not true, it illustrates the point. The elder Tyng was president of a meeting which his son, who bears the same name, was addressing. The father, seeing that his son was trying to close the address in a fitting way, whispered to him, "Sam, do stop." The son whispered back, "Father, I am trying to."

The editor of another church paper comments upon the practice of an evangelist who canvasses his converts after he closes a revival and secures their subscription to the church paper. This is certainly an excellent thing to do. When converts enter upon the new life, no better time can be found to commence the practice of religious reading, and no influence is more potent than the church paper in helping them to be good, loyal church workers and Christians. One such is worth a thousand who are like the seed sown upon stony ground.

The children will be proud this week of grandmother's letter.

Matt. 18th chapter gives the rule of procedure to deal with offending members. An accusation is not to be received except from the mouth of two or three witnesses, if private means have failed; then it is to be told to the church. This means that the church shall act in the capacity of a jury and judge, and after having the evidence of both the accused and the accusers, decide what the penalty shall be.

When souls are converted from the error of their way, do not forget to thank God and be humble. Do not become proud, as there is danger of a fall.

The foolish virgins at Christ's coming will be those professing Christians who have not understood the prophecies which comprise half of the Bible, all of which center in the second coming of the Lord. They are to be guests, remember, but they are in the dark, and before they are ready the door is closed. 'Watch for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come,' is a weighty command of the Lord. He is coming, brother, and have you plenty of oil in your vessel and lamps, too.

We salute Bro. W. W. Summers over the result of the glorious meeting at Bunker Hill, Ind. Thank the Lord for souls saved.

'For it is a shame for a woman to speak in public,' says Paul. This is not a statement for which he is responsible as the originator. He is only stating what was then a fact, so recognized by society. The service of the Jewish Synagogue was such that any man might ask questions, criticize, contradict the speaker, etc. In those Jewish services, it was considered a great shame for a woman to speak and contradict and criticize a man. Therefore Paul admonished that the wives of the brethren, and elders, who were endowed with new and enlarged liberties in the Christian church, should conform with the customs of the country, and not dispute with men in the public services, as it would bring reproach upon the Christian name. The admonitions were given out and of prudential designs only, and do in no way allude to singing, praying or teaching in public.

A man went into a bank and poured onto the counter from his purse some twenty gold dollars. The banker counted them over and threw one of them back, saying it was spurious. The man looked at it and said he could see no difference between that and the others. The banker placed upon it a little aquafortis and it soon showed it was something besides gold. So are professing Christians. Some people can see no difference between them, but God knows the spurious ones every time, although they may be found among the good. Let no one believe that the church or association in which he is found will save him.

The Lord's Prayer contains neither 'I' nor 'me' but the Pharisee's prayer, containing thirty-four words, mentions the name God but once, and contains five capital I's.

In speaking of one's own faults the 'I' and 'me' may be used righteously. In the seventh chapter of Romans, Paul uses it quite often.

Rev. XXIII, xvii and xiv combined with the xiv verse of the same chapter effectually makes adding to the commands of Christ, or taking away therefrom, a crime which is punishable by the judgment pronounced in the former verses, namely; 'for I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy (teaching) of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book, and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and the things which are written in this book. This is a warning of terrible consequences against tampering with the commands of Christ. It is in the Book that they are blessed who obey his commands. The man who says it is not necessary to obey a command of Christ, is taking away from the book of Revelations—making the promises of that book false statements.

The Christian at Work says: 'The wealth of church members in the United States, as given in the census of 1880, was nine billions of dollars. Their contributions annually for missions was an average of one sixteenth of a cent for every dollar, or one dollar in every 1,586.' Small indeed that is, when all our blessings come from God.

THE RIDENOUR CASE.—We have again been asked to publish an article on the difficulty between the Milford church and Elder James A. Ridenour. We mentioned something regarding this trouble some time ago, and made the statement that when it was settled then we would announce the fact. We would have all understand that we respect the rights of churches and of individuals as well. And it might as well be understood, too, that the EVANGELIST is not engaged in publishing testimony, setting forth the difficulties between parties.

The Milford church withdrew fellowship from Elder Ridenour about a year ago, and he requested a trial before them, which they did not deem expedient to grant. He requested the Bear Creek church to decide whether he was a member of that church or not, and the church decided that he was. Here the matter rests.

The Milford church withdrew fellowship, on a charge of indiscreet conduct and untruthfulness, Ridenour, we understand, not being present at the meeting. Several years ago the Bear Creek Church held a trial in which he was the accused and he was retained in full fellowship, and gave him a letter. We suppose, when he made the request referred to above, asking whether he was a member or not of the Bear Creek church, that church held that it should not go beyond the previous trial, and that it did not feel justified in refusing fellowship to him upon the strength of the real evidence before it. This is the extent of our relation to the difficulty, and we publish these facts for the information of the churches, that they may understand the matter and act as they see proper.

### LITERATURE.

ALDEN & FAXON, Newspaper Advertising Agents, Nos. 66 and 68 West Third Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, have just issued a very neat Catalogue of the leading American & Canadian newspapers. It is very attractively gotten up, the typographical work being above reproach. A very interesting feature of this catalogue is the publication of sample advertisement, and instructions to new advertisers as to the best method of making money out of newspaper advertising. This firm are especially good counsel in the direction of newspaper advertising, from the fact they have written the advertisements and made successful some of the most prominent firms in the United States. This list will be sent free on application.